



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/

For Immediate Release
February 19, 2004

Contact: Amanda Price
517-373-3447

Republican JOBS II plan pushes forward to create jobs, save jobs and promote healthier business environment

Lansing – Senate and House Republicans on Wednesday unveiled the next phase of their comprehensive plan to jumpstart Michigan’s stalled economy. The second phase of the legislative JOBS plan – Job Opportunities for Business Success – targets tax relief to businesses that create new jobs and eliminates many of the barriers to entrepreneurial activities.

“Republicans remain committed to restoring Michigan’s economic health,” said Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Twp. “Michigan has traditionally discouraged entrepreneurs from either establishing or expanding businesses in the state through taxes on new jobs and research grant funding. We’ve essentially been penalizing a vital segment of our economy.”

JOBS II picks up where Republicans left off by creating new job opportunities, saving existing jobs, and promoting a friendlier and healthier business climate in Michigan.

“Michigan must stop putting up road blocks to new job growth and business expansion,” said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. “Michigan currently taxes new jobs, research grant funding, and has a whole host of burdensome state regulations that are hampering economic growth.”

Michigan Republican’s JOBS II package will:

- Provide tax relief to businesses that create new jobs;
- Eliminate taxation of federal and state research funds;

(More)

- Get broadband on Main Street by expanding Michigan's Broadband Authority to allow for funding of high-speed Internet infrastructure;
- Eliminate red-tape nightmares by creating a "bureaucracy buster team" to recommend ways to remove burdensome regulations for businesses;
- Create a personal property tax exemption for the first \$10,000 of a business' personal property value;
- Keep business bankruptcy assets in Michigan by providing an incentive for companies to participate in the bankruptcy proceedings of other in-state companies;
- Simplify filing of Michigan Single Business Tax forms;
- Expand the use of private labs for state business; and
- Streamline U.S.-Canadian border issues by calling on the governor to create a Michigan-Ontario Border Commission to standardize border-related rules and regulations.

"We need to tear down the traditional road blocks and encourage job creation and growth," Birkholz said.

Bills implementing the JOBS II action plan are being drafted and the Legislature could start acting on them within a week. Senate and House leaders both hope to have the entire plan on the governor's desk before lawmakers break for their summer recess.

###